

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-47. (Cancelled).

48. (Previously presented) A method for placing immobilized tissue within a patient's body under tension, comprising:

introducing a first tissue engaging member carried on an arm distal end and a second tissue engaging member carried on the arm distal end into a patient's body with the first tissue engaging member and second tissue engaging member configured substantially together;

spreading the first tissue engaging member away from the second tissue engaging member a first distance after the first tissue engaging member and second tissue engaging member are within the patient's body;

coupling the first tissue engaging member to a first tissue surface and the second tissue engaging member to a second tissue surface to substantially immobilize a tissue area within the patient's body;

spreading the first tissue engaging member away from the second tissue engaging member while maintaining the first tissue engaging member substantially parallel to the second tissue engaging member a second distance after the first tissue engaging member has been coupled to the first tissue surface and second tissue engaging member has been coupled to the second tissue surface to place the substantially immobilized tissue under tension within a patient's body; and,

fastening the arm to a stationary object to substantially fix the first tissue engaging member and the second tissue engaging member in relation to the stationary object.

49. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 48 wherein the substantially immobilized tissue under tension increases tissue stability compared to substantially immobilized tissue that is not under tension.

50. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 48 wherein the substantially immobilized tissue under tension increases tissue exposure compared to substantially immobilized tissue that is not under tension.

Claims 51-65. (Cancelled).

66. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 48 wherein the first and second tissue engaging members have a contact surface adapted to engage tissue.

67. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 66 wherein the first and second tissue engaging members have a suction lumen open to the atmosphere through the contact surface.

68. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 67 further comprising the step of applying suction from a suction source to the suction lumen of the first and second tissue engaging members to couple the first and second tissue engaging members to the first and second tissue surfaces.

Claims 69-73. (Cancelled).